

COURIER

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Clarke: 'New York Times' report misleading

By Courtney Hundt
Editor

Though its natty campus may not show it, Clarke College is in an admitted-ly tight spot. Its student body has shrunk, its endowment even more. At the moment, the college has more debts than money." This surprising statement is from an article that appeared in the "New York Times" on April 15.

The article, which dealt with

the 14 colleges and universities that are being downgraded by Moody's Investors Service, went on to quote Clarke College President Catherine Dunn, BVM, as saying, "We're all just hanging in there, trying to streamline where we can, yet maintain the academic quality we're known for."

According to Moody's recently released first-quarter report, which analyzed the financial health of institutions to check their credit worthiness, there are

a record number of downgrades as a result of the increasing credit pressures on small private colleges in a poor economy.

Unfortunately, some facts in the "Times" article were misconstrued. The numbers for incoming undergraduate and TimeSaver students are promisingly high. The student body population for Fall 2001 was 1,201 and 1,126 in 2002.

In a more accurate article in the April 18 issue of the "Telegraph Herald," Dunn explained, "I

don't think there is a business or college or university in the country that hasn't experienced a loss in the market."

according to a survey by the National Association of College and University Business Officers."

Officers.”
“I feel very good about where we are,” Dunn goes on. “We have more resources than we have debt. We have never missed a payment on anything. We have given our faculty and staff raises every year. If you’re in dire straits you don’t do those things - you can’t do those things.”



A Good Listener

Clarke College President Catherine Dunn, BVM, Ph.D., accompanied by Director of Residence Life Patti Smith and Vice-President of Student Life Kate Zanger, spoke with Mary Frances Hall residents Tuesday evening, April 29. During the chat, many of the 30-plus students voiced concerns about needed security measures, congested parking, and residence hall improvements. On the previous evening, many residents of Mary Josita and Mary Benedict Halls, as well as residents of the apartment complex, were able to attend similar chats with the president. Students expressed similar concerns and shared opinions on such topics as meal plans and elevator additions.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear "Courier" Editor,

I am writing today out of frustration with Clarke's decision to change the meal plan for on-campus residents next year. I will be a senior next year living on Mary Josita's wing, and I find it rather unreasonable that I am required to take at least the ten meal plan with \$200 in flex money (and freshmen are now required to take the 19 flex plan). I currently have the 7 flex plan, and like the options it gives me. As a freshman and sophomore I had the 12 flex plan. At that time, I rarely used all my meals and struggled to use my flex by the end of the year.

The failure of the college to ask the students' opinion before making this change shows a disregard for our intelligence, our maturity to make our own nutritional decisions, and our economic situations. It gives the appearance that Clarke is doing this purely for economic gain and not out of concern for the student welfare. If it was done purely to benefit the students, the college would compromise and return the funds not used to students at the end of the year or apply it to the student's remaining bill. For the way the system is now if you do not use it, you lose it.

I hope Clarke will rethink this new system. I would also like to see more dialogue between Clarke and the students on issues such as this. Also, if Clarke has valid reasons for making such changes, discuss them with the student body. Let us know so we can understand what it is we are paying for.

Yours Respectfully,
Katherine E. Keil
Clarke College junior

EDITOR'S NOTE

I think you've spoken for many of us here at Clarke who are discouraged by the new meal plans. Personally, over the past three years, I have never once successfully used all seven of my meals in one week; now I have ten.

At her Springtime Chat with students on April 28 and 29, President Catherine Dunn offered her apologies for the lack of student-administration dialogue in making the decision for the new meal plans. She added,

however, that there was extensive research done to find out what other colleges are doing. Although the Clarke administration is currently looking into "double-swipe" possibilities that would allow us to use two board plans at once, the system for next year is no longer negotiable. Tough luck for some of us.

"Courier" Editor,
Lexy Spencer

A tribute to McAlpin: 42 yrs

(continued from page one)

Not only has McAlpin served as the Chair of the English department, but she is also a member of numerous professional organizations. She has many times published scholarly articles and delivered countless presentations at academic conferences. In 1999 she presented a lecture on Arts and Leadership as part of the Clarke Mackin-Mailander lecture series.

McAlpin has also served on nearly every important faculty committee at Clarke: the

"She is witty, fearless and honest."

Planning Committee, Faculty Personnel Board, the Committee of Department Chairs, and the Women's History Month Committee; recently, she's taken on the task of organizing the archives office in the library.

In her time here at Clarke, she has continually said that the students are her favorite part of teaching. Every semester it's new and different students. McAlpin estimates she has taught at least 5,000 different students in her time teaching at Clarke. She simply loves reading with them and opening them up to the world of fine literature. "She had a real passion for what she taught and she wanted her class to appreciate the material as much as she did," said soph-

omore communication major Grant Kroll.

Not only does McAlpin have devotion for the English department and her students, but for her faculty colleagues as well. "I am very fortunate to work with such a dedicated staff," she said.

The faculty feels the same admiration towards McAlpin. Gary Arms, Chair of the English department, said, "She is witty, fearless and honest. She considers things before she speaks and she is straightforward and honest." Not only was Arms hired by McAlpin, he was trained by her as well. He feels that in her retiring, the English department will lose an important voice, one that always speaks for justice.

While the English department and students alike will be losing a beloved professor and friend, McAlpin will still be seen around campus. While she is retiring from teaching, she will continue her work in the archives office because she feels the records and memories that are kept there are an asset to the Clarke community.

Although those records are indeed an asset to Clarke, McAlpin has no idea how big of an asset she is as well. She herself will be a valued memory for many. Congratulations on your retirement, Dr. Sara McAlpin, BVM.

rAndom irritations

By Mike Harrelson
Staff Writer

Whatever happened to getting soup and salad with your meal when you go out? Remember the good ol' days when you had your choice of soup and salad before the meal came. Or if you wanted, you could get cottage cheese instead. When did soup and salad make the move from free side order to menu item? I miss that salad. I ordered a \$13 steak from Applebee's the other day, and all I got was about four small fried potatoes, some vegetables I didn't eat because they were funny looking, my 9-ounce steak, and a piece of garlic bread. What in the name of God does garlic bread have to do with steak? Do they think I'm an Italian Texan? That's not a side for steak! Where's my salad? Where's my soup? WHERE'S MY COTTAGE CHEESE?

Can I Order a Pizza?

By now we all know I work at Happy Joes; and it's time for me to talk about some of my favorite phone calls from customers. Sometimes people just don't think before they talk. They blurt out some really funny things when they're trying to order a pizza. One of my favorites was "Can I talk to someone there?" How am I supposed to respond to that? Or how about one of my all-time favorites:

"Can I order a pizza?" No, you can't! Some guy called the other day and asked me for Pizza Hut's number. I asked him if he was serious. One woman asked for a meat works pizza with no meat because she was allergic to pork. I told her that was called a cheese pizza, but she insisted on a meat works, no meat! Just the other day someone called and asked me for that one pizza, "you know, with the stuff on it!" But you know how the old saying goes: "The customer is always right."

Pop-up No More

Pop-ups. I can't emphasize enough how much these annoy me. Way back in the day, pop-ups seemed to be under control. But these days they're just entirely out of control. They're even popping up on the Clarke page now! I really don't need a personal spy camera! And what's with the half-naked women on that ad anyway? To whom are they marketing this "spy camera"? And I think I've won enough paid vacations to Cancun to take half the country down there! I don't need to refine; I don't need free grocery coupons "sent directly to me." I'm not looking for singles in my area, and I really don't need to lose 50 pounds in three days! I wish there was a way to mess with the pop-up creators like you can with the telemarketers!

CLARKE

COURIER

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Clarke students serving around the globe

By Gina Pemberton
Staff Writer

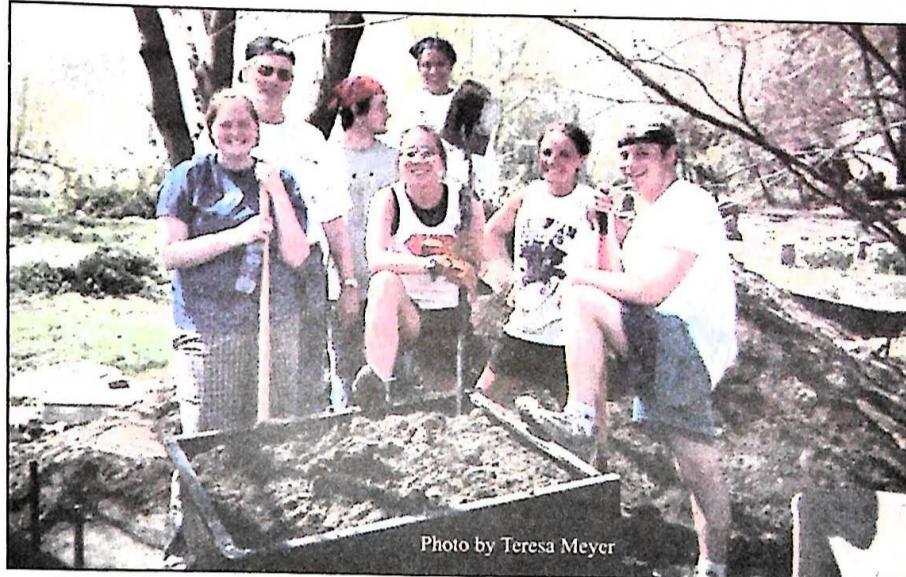
Students at Clarke College who attend service trips return with the gratitude expressed by the many hearts they've touched.

For the DC service trip this year, Clarke students joined forces with Loras College for a six-day trip. They stayed at CCNV (Center for Creative Non-Violence), a homeless shelter for men and women, and were able to talk to and learn from homeless people. Activities included creating a library for the Children's Studio School, serving meals for S.O.M.E (So Others May Eat) to 400 homeless people, and working at Unity Health Care.

"The DC trip really opened my eyes and heart to the lives of the homeless in our country. I want to help in any way that I can and learn from the people that I go to serve," said senior Mary Kay McLain, who also went on the DC trip her sophomore and junior years.

Senior Sarah Roepke, who attended the DC trip this year, worked at Samaritan Ministries, an organization for the poor and unemployed. She also helped to organize shoes, wash windows, and bag clothes in the laundry room in the shelter. The group also organized food pantries, put food bags together, and sliced onions. Sarah attended the DC trip during her freshman year and was student leader for the DC trip her junior year.

"I met a boy there named Dennis," said



(From left to right) Molly Demmer (Loras), Jim Halberson (Leader), Kevin Coughlin (Loras), Tania Ibarra, Jane Feltes (Leader), Greg Greazel (Loras), and Laura Stewart take a break from hard work in Baltimore on the DC trip.

Roepke. "When I shook his hand, introduced myself, and gave him some crackers, there was a look that came to his face. It was a moment I will carry with me always. I acknowledged his existence when so many people just walked on by."

On the DC trip, volunteers also attended the only Catholic church in the county. Following church, they drove to the Inter Faith Center where they stayed for the remainder of the trip. They spent the rest of that day arranging the clothing pantry and cleaning the outside of the building. They shoveled wood chips at the school

and some of the volunteers read to the kindergarten class while others taught physical education.

Senior Maureen Murphy attended the Appalachia service trip this year for the first time. "When you take the children at the church and all of the other people we help and add that to the fun we had in the process, you can understand why I would say that this was definitely a worthwhile trip," said Murphy.

On the following days they painted floors, porches, and benches, put up dry wall, and cleaned up one of the Christian

Outreach Appalachia Project buildings. Volunteers had soup and bread with some of the parishioners at the church and played with the children back at the school. Every night on the trip, the students reflected on the day's events and prayed.

Junior Mirna Romero, who attended the Appalachia trip this semester, also went on the Ecuador Service trip. There, the students did a variety of activities, spent time with a number of people and experienced their lifestyles, and worked on many projects. One major project was the work they did on a soccer field, which included leveling the dirt. "I really love the fact that soccer is such a huge sport there," said Romero.

They also did after-school programs, working with kids on puzzles, artwork, and playing soccer with them everyday. They also worked at a hospital for people with Hansen's disease. "The goal was to spend time with them and see the face of Christ in them," said Romero. "Just be with them, assuring them that people do care. I learned how to be grateful for what I have through my interactions with these people. I will carry my experience with me forever."

Romero also attended the Hesed House and DC trip her freshman year and was leader of the Hesed House trip during her sophomore year.

Judy Decker

Long term Computer Science Prof Retires

By Kelcey Dillon
Staff Writer

Judy Decker has been teaching computer science at Clarke since 1982 and will be retiring this year. Decker came to Clarke 21 years ago through a recommendation from then-Chair of the department Sister Mary Kenneth Keller. She has been an important part of the Clarke community ever since.

Judy started teaching math out of college. Eventually she began teaching computer classes and was inspired to go back to school for her Master's degree in computer science. "She is a true computer scientist, in both theory and practice. She is an expert in the field," said Department Chair Sheila Castaneda.

Lisa Landgraf, professor in the computer science department, said the department will definitely miss Judy's insight and problem solving skills. "I think Judy has a wonderful ability to see through to the core of a problem. She can see an issue and bring clarity when we may not," said Landgraf.

The department and students will also miss her style of teaching. "She is not an easy teacher, students learn a lot from her," Landgraf continued. Judy's dedication to students is one thing that is prevalent in her teaching. "One thing I admire about Judy is that she is always willing to help a student who is struggling. She works with them one-on-one and encourages them to succeed," said Castaneda. "We will definitely miss Judy's expertise in teaching and dealing with students."

Although Judy will not miss the 100-mile commute she has to drive from Stockton, Ill., every other day, she will miss the friendly atmosphere and interaction with students at Clarke. "When I was a student, I always studied in a big university. Here at Clarke, you get to know everyone pretty well, and no matter where I go I see people I know," said Judy.



Art & Chemistry

Students learn to appreciate the composition, structure, and properties of the artwork they admire.

Generally when someone says "chemistry" the first word that comes to mind isn't art. Chemistry is usually associated with chemicals and molecules, not paints and artwork. At the beginning of the past semester at Clarke, all that changed.

The new class, which is just wrapping up, was called Chemistry in Art. Taught by chemistry professor Mary Lou Caffery, BVM, the class emphasized and focused on the chemical make-ups of paints and other art media. Some of the main topics studied included how basic chemistry techniques are applied to all different types of art media. The class experimented with such art mechanisms as crayons, dyes, and clay.

"This was a different type of class," said sophomore Matt Franta. "I never would have associated art with chemistry before. It's interesting to see just how colors form the art on the canvas."

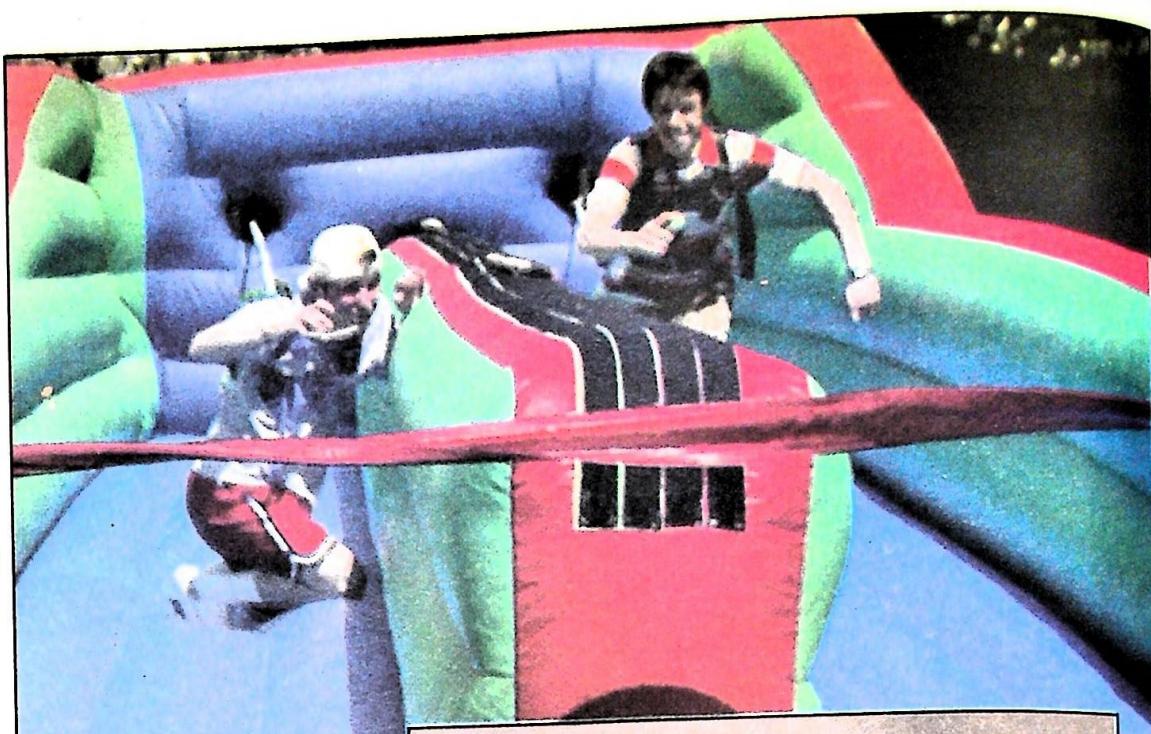
The majority of the students in the class were either art or graphic design majors who were able to renew their deep appreciations for art while finding a new appreciation for the chemistry behind their brilliant masterpieces.

As an added bonus, the chemistry in art class also fulfilled the general education lab science requirement.

May Daze

Bungee runs, free ice cream, music performances you couldn't shake a stick at, and beautiful weather—what more could one want? How about a dunk tank, old-fashioned pictures, face painting, and trivia for everyone? May Daze hit the Clarke campus with a bang, and we've got the proof...

Right: Zach Breitbach and Josh Withington go head-to-head on the bungee run sponsored by Create.
 Below: Jayme Barschdorff and Kate Zanger serve up some ice cream sponsored by the sophomore class.
 Far Right: Shelter guitarist jams in the SAC as a returning Battle of the Bands contestant.



All photos by Adam Nettleton



Above: Tara Griffin and Stephanie Erbe celebrate a trivia victory over Jed Thompson's team at a booth sponsored by Clio Society.

Right: Shannon Burroughs takes advantage of UNITY member Tiffany Avant's face-painting skills.



Behind the scenes...

A firsthand look at the junior recital

By Gina Pemberton
Staff Writer

On Friday, April 25, the music department held a recital for all of the juniors in the department. This recital featured pieces that have been worked on by students during this school year. Performers included vocalists Nicole Merritt, Anna Ketterhagen, James Enzler, and myself, Gina Pemberton, as well as instrumentalists Amy Dolphin, Phil Petrie, and Michael Frain.

The recital, which is basically a vocal final, tests us on what we've learned in our applied lessons during the year. As we perform, music faculty members critique us, observing our use of correct techniques taught in our applied lesson. They comment on any techniques we

need to continue to work on, what we have improved on, and what the finer points of our performance were.

In the past the department held jury recitals. Faculty members agree that by having a junior recital instead of a jury, the juniors are more prepared for doing their senior recitals the following year.

Soprano Anna Ketterhagen agrees that the term "junior recital" made it easier to focus on the performance and not so much on being graded. The term "jury" leaves a sense of going before a judge. It was easier looking out into the audience and seeing the faces of friends and family members who were there to listen and give support.

Preparing for the junior recital was no easy task. It required a great deal of preparation and willingness to put forth the effort. During the past year, other per-

formers, along with myself, have been working on each of the pieces, as well as others that were not performed in our applied lessons. In preparation for pieces within our repertoires, many of us took diction classes.

The hardest part of the afternoon was standing backstage waiting to go on, feeling my heart beat in my throat, and trying to prevent my knees from shaking. The whole process is a bit of a rush. You build up all this intensity backstage, and then go on and release those feelings, using them to your advantage. Before you know it, the performance is over and you are left with a great sense of peace. It is a great relief to see your hard work account for something, and to know that part of the semester is over and done with.



Indie rock dominates musical tastes

By Kevin Krein
Courier Contributor

So much has happened in the world of music since we last met. Where can I begin? I suppose we can start back in February—the month that The Juliana Theory dropped their first major label LP entitled "Love." This album isn't as solid as their previous effort "Emotion Is Dead," but it has some strong tracks, like the song "White Days" and the re-recorded version of an old Theory classic "Into The Dark."

February also included the hot and fresh-out-of-the-kitchen LP by everyone's favorite thug, R. Kelly. Most of the album, in my opinion, is forgettable. Some tracks are pretty darn laughable, too, especially "Ignition" and "Ignition the remix," which contain some of the best lines ever delivered in any song, ever.

Forging ahead into March, emo kids, The Ataris dropped their major label debut "So Long, Astoria," which is powered by the single "In This Diary." There are two tracks that stand out for me; one is a cover of "The Boys Of Summer." The other is the acoustic version of "The Saddest Song" which is a hidden track at the end of the disc. The acoustic version will do you in and have you reaching for the Kleenex box faster than you can say Jimmy Eat World.

Finally, we come to two discs that are quickly becoming two of my favorites of the year. The first is from a New York City-based group called Longwave. Longwave has its own sound. This is evident on the opening track as well as the singles "Everywhere You Turn," catchy as all get out, and "Tidal Wave," one of the most beautiful songs on the album. While some tracks tend to slow the album down a little, it is still great all the way through and very comforting at times.

We're almost done, kids; but don't unbuckle those safety belts yet. It's time to talk about a disc released at the end of last year that has caught my attention this year. Cody ChesnuTT's "The Headphone Masterpiece" is a slice of indie rock heaven. It combines comedy, hip-hop, soul, and garage rock all into two discs that span 36 songs. Some are very short and serve as interludes, but some are full-out instant classic songs, like "Looks Good In Leather" and "The Seed," which has been remixed by hip hop greats The Roots, and is their latest single.

Wow! That was a whole lotta' music. But you are all smart, cool, responsible people. I'm sure you can handle it. Impress all of your friends by being on the cutting edge, just like I do. Thanks for reading. It's been real.

"Memento"

A backwards flick

By Lauren Hanna
A&E Editor

Without a short-term memory, life can be downright difficult. Writing notes to yourself and taking pictures of things would be necessary to function in everyday life. "Memento," a film by Christopher Nolan, is about a man without a short-term memory. Leonard Shelby, played by Guy Pearce ("The Time Machine"), suffers from a severe head injury after his home is broken into and his wife murdered.

The hook to "Memento" is that the entire movie plays backwards, scene by scene. The beginning of the movie opens up with a bullet rolling off the floor, back into a gun, and then a Polaroid picture going back into the camera.

Each scene in the movie reveals a bit more and the entire plot is fully understandable at the end of the film. Color scenes alternate with black and white scenes throughout "Memento" to mark two separate storylines that surprisingly merge into one at the end.

As the plot unfolds, Leonard's revenge takes control of his life, and with no short-term memory, his goal to find his wife's killer becomes increasingly more difficult. Leonard uses Polaroid photographs to remember people, places, and events, along with tattooing important things on his body to remember his goals.

"Memento" is definitely worth watching over and over again because more details become obvious and the movie becomes better with each viewing. "Memento" is now available on DVD to own or rent.

Are You One of Al's Pals?

Find out what's inside Al's head

• *Al's Head*

• *Al's Head*

• *Al's Head*

Catalyst 2003 is Coming Soon

* All Dressed Up With No Place to Go

* Freshman in the Mist

* Sights Unseen

CLARKE GOLF

Layout by Jessica Meierotto

Lean, Mean & on the Green Champions of the NIIC

By Mark Otterbeck
Sports Editor

During his pre-tournament speech to the Clarke College men's golf team, Coach Jon Davison said, "We've practiced and prepared for this moment; now it's time to go out and have some fun void of all distractions."

The Crusaders heeded Davison's battle cry and won the fifth consecutive NIIC conference championship hosted by Clarke at Thunder Hills Country Club on Sunday, April 27.

The Crusaders jumped to an 11-stroke lead after the first round and continued to widen the gap in the final round, winning the title by an amazing 26 strokes.

"The weather was beautiful, conditions were right, and our team peaked at exactly the right time," said junior Brad Perry.

Perry tied for third place with teammate Ken Retzl, who shot 163 but fell short, losing the sudden death playoff after the first hole.

"It was a lot of fun to play an extra hole with a teammate," said Perry. "The atmosphere on the tee box was light and even allowed for a bit of joking around, which made it extremely fun."

Leading the charge for the Crusaders was Drew Larson, who finished second overall in the tournament with a final score of 160.

Larson struggled early on Sunday, falling six strokes behind the leader, but fought back. Larson ultimately missed a putt on the last hole that would have tied him for the lead.

"I'm pleased to have finished second but can't help but think about the one stroke that got away," said Larson.

Larson finished second to Justin Hatch from Benedictine, who finished with a final score of 159, edging out Larson by just one stroke.

"The golf course and conditions have been wonderful, but hard fast greens made scoring difficult," said Hatch.

The Crusaders not only won the conference title, but also placed every team member, with the exception of one injured player, on the all-conference squad.

"Not to take away from Brian Vickers, who stepped up to help the team during the tournament, but it was extremely rewarding to have all our regular golfers receive these honors," said Brad Perry.

A senior, Vickers has been with the team in some capacity throughout his time at Clarke, but suffered from an injury in his sophomore year that kept from playing full time.

"Vickers has been

waiting four years for an opportunity that would justify taking a flying leap into a pond. "Given the possibility of winning our fifth championship coupled with the fact that Clarke would be hosting the tournament, we all thought that maybe he would finally get the opportunity," said senior Ken Retzl.

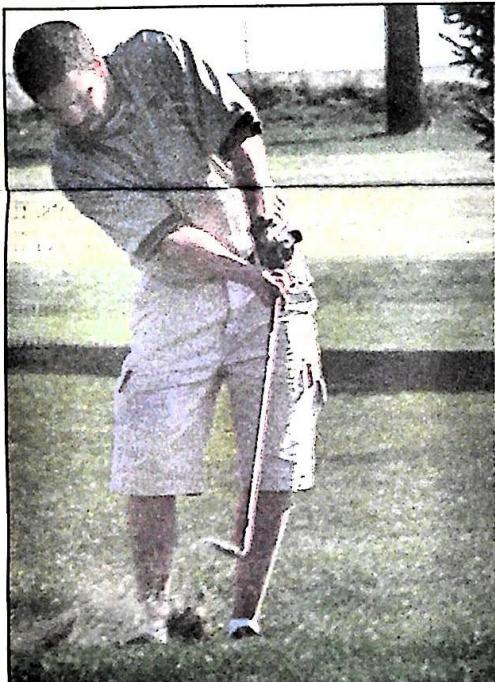
At the close of the tournament Vickers took off in a dash to finally take the plunge he had longed for into a nearby pond.

"The guys played hard to make the tournament a success and I have never seen them more worn out from a weekend of golf," said Jon Davison after the tournament.

The team and school will look to Brad Perry and Drew Larson next year to lead a group of five new recruits. The two returning members expect to carry on the emerging tradition of championship golf at Clarke College.

Right:
Kenney
Retzl,
teeing off

Bottom:
Drew
Larson,
workin' the
putter



Middle: Brian Vickers, pitching towards the green
Bottom: Brad Perry, setting up his putt
All Photos taken by Adam Nettleton



Clarke Athletics: The Year in Review

By Tim Sherlock
Staff Writer

The end is here and it was a good year for Clarke sports. Goals were attained, record-books were rewritten, and above all, Clarke athletes had fun. This past fall the year got off to a great start. The women's tennis team fought hard and, once again, brought home a conference championship. This marks the sixth straight year of doing so, and the future looks bright. The team loses only one player (Rebecca Shale) to graduation, and is already eyeing another title run next year. "I've got one more year left, I plan on going out on top," said N.I.I.C. all-conference player Chelsea Peters.

Also in the fall of 2002, both men and women's soccer teams were in action. While the women's team wasn't quite as dominant as in recent years, going 4-16-1, the men's team made some very large improvements and saw success. They finished 3-17 for the year and had three players, Brian McDaniels, Chris Salutric, and Keith Bailey, named to the all-conference team.

Women's volleyball came into the season looking to rebuild and lay the groundwork for a bright future. The girls finished 8-20, but did so with a roster made up of

almost all underclassmen. The members of the team got valuable experience and hope that it will contribute to success in the near future. "We had our fun, and next year we plan on making our mark," said sophomore Gina Sanchez.

Rounding out fall sports, Clarke's cross-country teams saw a great deal of success. The women's team captured the N.I.I.C. conference title and is in line to do so again next year, as only two members (Lynn Haines and Kelcey Dillon) will be graduating. The men's team will be looking to youth to get them going next fall. Only two runners, Noah Diehm and Hans Breitbach, will be returning, while Fabian Yaklin, Jose Guichardo, Josh Sundstrom, and Matt Wilden will not.

Men's basketball had a season to remember. This winter, the Crusaders battled to a 14-13 record, giving Coach Jon Davison his first winning season as a member of the Clarke community. Senior Jay Harris was once again named MVP; he leaves Clarke as the third leading scorer in Clarke's history. "I'm glad we were able to have some success this year. It's been a good ride and I'm definitely going to miss playing for Coach," said Harris.

The women's basketball team had a very interesting season. The roster was significantly smaller than recent

years, meaning that those who did play needed to work that much harder. On top of this, the team had to learn a new system, as newly hired Coach Joan Steffen took over the program. The team finished 3-22, but most would agree that they were a blast to watch.

While not quite as successful as the year before, men's volleyball had another successful season, although their 5-17 record may indicate otherwise. Most of their losses were against Divisions I and II schools. The team saw some time nationally ranked, and had many contributions made by freshmen Tyler Galstad, Erik Vogt, Curtis Madson, and Joe Collier. It can only get better for the Crusaders.

After recruiting efforts by Coach Rick Arrington brought five new faces to the team, our men's tennis players put on a pretty good show on the courts. "This year has been a learning experience, but it's been fun and the guys on the team are great," said Kris Hardy, one of the newcomers to the program. While final standings are not yet available, the netters are guaranteed a winning season.

Rounding out the year in Clarke sports are the softball and baseball teams. The two teams continue to do battle now, and are fighting for conference titles.

Hard work paying off for the Clarke track team

By Grant Kroll
Staff Writer

This spring Clarke introduced a track and field club sports team. The team has competed in road races and indoor meets. So far the outdoor meets have been held at Augustana and the Cornell Relays. Clarke's last outdoor meet is Saturday, May 3, at Coe College.

With such a small team, the focus is on individual times and points. In the past two meets, Ashley Black has been the team's leading scorer in the open 400 meters.

"With our team being as small as it is, it's hard to score a lot of points at meets, but I think the team will just keep getting bigger and better each year," said senior Matt Wilden.

Every runner is progressively dropping his or her times and is slowly moving up in placement during meets. The team's roster includes Julie Bahl, Allison Maas, Ashley Black, Tiffany Bergfeld, Anna Ketterhagen, Matt Wilden, Josh Sundstrom, and Brian McDaniels.

"I give a lot of credit to the runners who came out this year; they gave their time and they had faith in the program," said Coach Tammy Hoffer. "They have opened the doors to many others who want to be a part of track and field. Without their hard work and dedication this would have never happened."

College athletes Raising the bar

By Kris Breyer
Staff Writer

For the 126 athletes at Clarke, the cumulative grade point average is 3.04. The cumulative grade point average for the 712 non-athletes at Clarke is 3.24. The student athlete advisory committee (SAAC), made up of two representatives from each sport, suggests that this difference may be a result of athletes having to miss class.

In response, the SAAC was challenged by advisor and Athletic Director Curt Long to research the issue and find out what other colleges and universities are doing to prevent similar problems with their own student-athletes.

Since the fall, the SAAC has been collecting information and compiling data to present to the Faculty/Staff Athletic Committee on the current student-athletes situation at Clarke.

The ultimate goal stated in the research done by the SAAC is to "establish a written policy, so that if an athlete had to miss class because of a game, the absence would be excused and the opportunity to make-up missed work would be allowed."

Senior and SAAC president Jason Betke said, "For this to work, it's going to take a lot of

cooperation at both ends with students and faculty/staff."

Although, according to Betke, this process is going to take some time, the beginning stages of something to help student-athletes deal with their obligations to school and sport are definitely under way.

The SAAC presented its research on April 28 to the Faculty/Staff Athletic Committee. During the presentation, SAAC vice president Christine Steines and SAAC secretary Rebecca Shale introduced the results of their research and offered possible suggestions for dealing with the athletics/class conflict.

Among the possible recommendations for change was a restructuring of class schedules, so major classes would fall in the morning where less conflict might occur with sports practices and games.

Another suggestion was to introduce athletic excusal slips for class instructors and athletes to use in order to communicate between student and advisor when an absence may occur. The SAAC research also states that student organizations and music programs could also benefit from such changes because they could have their meetings or music practices during athletic practices.

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In a far away land: Semester Abroad

By Kelcey Dillon
Staff Writer

If you've noticed two people missing from Clarke recently, it's because they are studying abroad this semester. Jenni Christopher is in Costa Rica and Katie Bahl is in Wales.

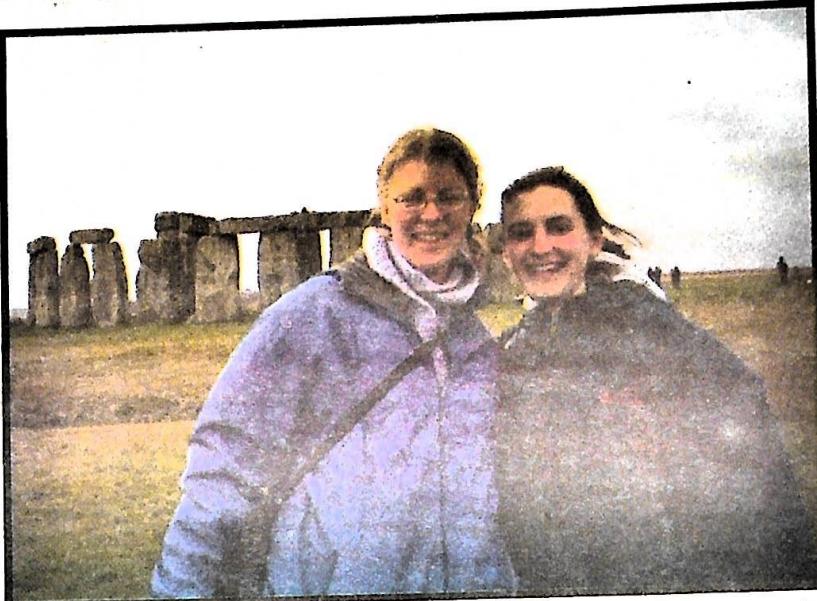
These adventurous souls have adapted well to the different cultures. For Katie, hearing American tunes on the radio helped her ease into the Welsh culture as she found that the United States wasn't so far away.

"It really surprised me that these songs were being played in Wales," she said. "I have since realized how much people here keep a close watch on the United States."

For Katie, being an American means answering many questions curious foreigners have about the United States.

"In Wales, everyone wants to know more about you, where you live, and what the states are like. Everyone also wants to talk about the war. Most of the time, it's really hard to carry on a conversation that doesn't lead to the war," said Katie.

Going to the pub to have a drink before your 11 a.m. class is not looked down upon in the Welsh culture. Katie said that in Wales, drinking is more culturally acceptable than in the United States. Campus-sponsored drinking fests are not frowned upon; neither is the on-campus bar.



Sisters Katie and Julie Bahl, both Clarke students, visit the ruins of Stonehenge in England during spring break.

Jenni Christopher's incredible host family helped make her transition bearable.

"I don't think I experienced culture shock because I knew what to expect," said Jenni. "Things are a lot different economically in Costa Rica. It's a third world country and they don't have the everyday pleasures we have in the United States. The roads are horrible and the drivers are worse. However, it's the most beautiful

country in the world in terms of landscape, climate, and people," said Jenni.

Blond-haired, blue-eyed Jenni is experiencing what it feels like being the minority. She explained that Americans are often the targets of pick-pockets and thieves.

"I think Costa Ricans look at Americans and think 'anda con plata' or 'they have money.' I have to take more precautions and be more careful about where I go and what I do," said Jenni.

Both students feel these experiences have changed the way they look at life.

"I feel I have become a different person, one whose core values and beliefs have been exercised and stretched to much deeper levels. I cannot fully express how much of an opportunity studying abroad really is," said Katie.

For Jenni the experience has been equally beneficial in terms of growth. "This has changed the way I look at life, because every day I see something that I would never have seen living in the United States. It has been a very humbling experience, and I know that it has changed the way I look at things," said Jenni.

Facing Your Phobias

By Kelcey Dillon
Staff Writer

Many Clarke students suffer from serious phobias. While some phobias are common to many, such as the fear of public speaking, others phobias are often debilitating and painful to discuss.

Freshman Nyse Jenkins is afraid of raccoons and squirrels. "I don't like any kind of rodents," said Jenkins. "To me a squirrel is a rat with a bushy tail." Jenkins believes the root of this fear came when one of her teachers told her at a young age that squirrels have rabies and if she got bit by one, she would die.

Many, like junior Gina Pemberton, suffer from numerous phobias. "I am claustrophobic (fear of confined spaces), arachnophobic (fear of spiders), microphobic (fear of small things), and acrophobic (fear of heights)."

Freshman Julie Weires said, "I am afraid of thunderstorms or anything in which a tornado may be occurring. I take a blanket and teddy bear and sit on the couch and look out the window."

"Courier" editor, senior Courtney Hundt, suffers from coulrophobia (fear of clowns). "Just hearing a circus theme song makes me want to cry," said Hundt.

Other students, such as Shannon Singsank and Lindsay Cross, are afraid of snakes and spiders. "I think they are scary, slimy and gross," said Singsank about snakes. "I scream and run when I see them."

The weirdest phobia of all belongs to sophomore Lisa Kapka. "I am afraid of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches," said Kapka. "I'll eat peanut butter sandwiches or jelly sandwiches, but if you mix them together, it just freaks me out. If it's not rude I throw them away when no one is looking."

Nyse Jenkins is frantic at the sight of a squirrel.



WANTED: 2 BR, Apt - \$Cheap

By Michael Harrelson
Staff Writer

If you're tired of living on campus and think you can't afford to move into an apartment, you're wrong. Off-campus living expenses are actually cheaper than living on campus if you can make the situation work.

First and foremost, you need a car. There aren't many apartments cheap enough (or worth living in) that are close enough to Clarke to make functioning without a car possible.

The second thing you need is an off-campus job. An on-campus, minimum wage job just isn't going to cut it, because it doesn't provide the salary or the hours you need (yeah, you're going to have to work more than six hours a week). You can find a job in Dubuque that gives you the hours you would need to get by.

The average rent for a decent apartment in a good area of town can run upwards of \$450. If you divide that two or three ways with roommates, it doesn't seem so bad. The problems come in when the utilities bills arrive.

The phone bill at its cheapest runs about \$25. Since most cellular companies offer plans that cheap, I would recommend getting a cell phone. If you do that, you'll probably

end up getting all the extras, like call waiting, caller ID, and long distance so you can call home, too (as if you would anyway).

The gas and electric bills combined are around \$120 a month, but depending on how much you use, they could essentially be much cheaper. (So turn out the lights and get an extra blanket!)

Water is around \$15 a month and also includes your garbage and sewer, but most of the time it's included in the apartment's rent.

Now if you insist on having cable, it'll run you about \$50 a month for basic service, which is what Clarke has.

You will also have to take into consideration things like food, gas, and extras. If you're lucky, you can get a job at a restaurant and eat half of your meals there like I do. I figure around \$100 a month, if you don't make a pig of yourself and watch for deals at Dollar General.

Once you add all that up and divide it say...three ways, your total comes to a guess average of about \$4000-5000 for a one-year lease. That seems expensive, but if you look at it logically, it really isn't that bad. On-campus expenses next year are between \$5000-7000 for about eight months, so it's a lot

cheaper to live off-campus (unless you still enjoy paying someone to clean your bathroom).

If you're still worried about how you're going to pay rent, I can offer a solution. Take out a loan the way you would for school, taking into consideration your tuition, and off-campus expenses. For example, if you were to estimate tuition at \$5,000 (yeah, it's a joke) and your off-campus cost at \$3000, take your loan for \$8,000. The Financial Aid Office can assist you in finding a loan that works for you. At the beginning of the year, all the funds on your account that are not used for tuition are sent back to you after about two weeks into the semester. It's kind of like overwriting a check! Set that money aside and use it for rent and living expenses. If you have yourself a job, you'll be fine.

So if you're tired of "visitation rights" at night, high costs of living, RA's, all those rules and regulations, and/or you just want to be allowed to grow up, off-campus is your answer. Clarke only allows you to move off campus into an apartment if you're 21. (And shouldn't go into the details how to get around that you're not 21!)